

USAID/Central Asian Republics Regional Operational Plan

FY 2006

June 13, 2006

Please Note:

The attached RESULTS INFORMATION is from the FY 2006 Operational Plan and was assembled and analyzed by the country or USAID operating unit identified on the cover page.

The Operational Plan is a "pre-decisional" USAID document and does not reflect results stemming from formal USAID review(s) of this document.

Related document information can be obtained from:
USAID Development Experience Clearinghouse
8403 Colesville Road, Suite 210
Silver Spring, MD 20910
Telephone: (301) 562-0641
Fax: (301) 588-7787
Email: docorder@dec.cdie.org
Internet: <http://www.dec.org>

Portions released on or after July 1, 2006

Program Performance Summary FY 2005: The "Central Asian Republics Regional Program" is used to complement country programs across all sectors. The specific uses and impact of the funding cannot be readily disaggregated from the accomplishments outlined within the specific country sectoral reports. For future reporting, we intend to drop this as a separate reporting document and will continue to reflect overall impacts through the relevant country programs.

DEMOCRATIC REFORM

Country Situation: Across the region, true characteristics of democracy have yet to take root in a significant way. To varying degrees, all of the regimes continue to be authoritarian and are characterized by limited political space for opposition parties and independent civil society organizations to operate. Despite this, the recent political upheaval in Kyrgyzstan and the installation of a new government is indicative of momentum for democratic reform in that country. In Kazakhstan, there were positive developments in that opposition candidates were allowed to register and run for the December 2005 presidential election; however, there was little advance time given for the parties to campaign and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe determined that the elections did not fully meet international standards. Events in Uzbekistan are worrisome in that the country is increasingly sliding towards autocratic control and autarky, and is cracking down much more heavily on both local and international NGOs in an attempt to divert the possibility of democratic reform. In Tajikistan, the government is reform-minded and generally supportive of USG assistance programs. Nonetheless, there are signs that political pluralism is waning while executive powers are expanding. Turkmenistan continues to be a country with limited receptivity to democratic reform and few hopes for near term change.

The lack of political, economic, and social change, affecting employment opportunities and quality of life, may serve to intensify social tensions and even radicalism in many parts of Central Asia. Coupled with increasing authoritarian rule and extreme corruption, the ingredients for social tensions to surface are even more present.

U.S. Assistance Priorities: Across the region, in the democracy sector, assistance priorities focus on strengthening civic and social organizations to help nudge governments toward reform. Support for independent media strengthening is another priority, as is elections assistance, including voter education, monitoring, exit polling, and non-partisan political party strengthening. Kyrgyzstan, with its new leadership, provides a unique and important opportunity to shape that government's reform agenda. As a result, USG democratic assistance in this country is expected to increase. On the opposite end of the spectrum, in Uzbekistan, where there has been much political backsliding, USG democratic assistance programs remain essential to continue to push forward in making progress toward democratization. Civic education and advocacy, judicial reform, and programs to address trafficking-in-persons are other key areas of assistance.

Program Performance: In FY 2006, regional funds were used to provide institutional grants in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Turkmenistan to organizations representing youth, the elderly, professional associations, and disabled groups, ultimately empowering NGOs to address self-identified community needs, while at the same time strengthening their organizational capacity. Throughout Central Asia, USAID works through local Civil Society Support Centers, providing a wide range of services to indigenous civil society organizations in each country, including training on advocacy, organizational management, and membership outreach, as well as consultations, internet access, and library resources.

ECONOMIC REFORM

Country Situation: The Central Asian Republics, since independence, have taken differing approaches to economic development. Turkmenistan remains the least reformist and most closed, and conditions there continue to worsen. Kazakhstan has been the most progressive in embarking upon serious market reforms and is seen as an engine of growth for the region. However, there remains a growing danger of over-reliance on the oil sector in Kazakhstan. Within the other countries of Central Asia, natural resource

wealth varies greatly, impacting the level of economic development. Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan have abundant water resources (but little else), while Turkmenistan (like Kazakhstan) has abundant oil and gas resources. Both Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan also have large supplies of natural gas.

Throughout the region, SME development is progressing with greater access to credit and business education and services. Nonetheless, regional cooperation in trade and sharing of natural resources (i.e., water and energy) has not been as effective as it could be. On the global level, trade opportunities continue to be slow to materialize (with the exception, perhaps, of Kazakhstan). Both Tajikistan and Kazakhstan are making progress toward WTO accession, but much remains to be accomplished. Uzbekistan, on the other hand, has shown an uncooperative attitude with respect to any USG assistance.

U.S. Assistance Priorities: Throughout the region, the primary priority continues to be focused on expanding economic opportunities, particularly at the SME level, and on improving the overall business environment, with the ultimate goal of creating a vibrant middle class and decreasing income disparity. Additionally, there is much focus on removing barriers to trade to help Central Asia become a world player in the international market.

Program Performance: Regional funds were used by the Central Asian Microfinance Alliance (CAMFA) to strengthen the capacity of Central Asian microfinance associations to function effectively and to improve sustainability prospects of these institutions. CAMFA's current assistance to the associations supports over 60 microfinance institutions, with a consolidated portfolio of over \$51 million and 91,000 active clients. Through the Land Tenure Project, regional funds also helped to develop a Draft Framework Strategy for Land Reform in Tajikistan. In addition, funds improved implementation of tax legislation in Tajikistan, and supported the Business and Economics Education Project in bringing about educational reform in universities.

Regional funds supported natural resources management, through the development of two modeling programs for water flow planning and forecasting among the states of the Syr Darya River Basin and the improvement of water data collection and regional communication capabilities.

SOCIAL REFORM AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

Country Situation: Lack of governmental commitment and funding for the social sector in nearly all of the Central Asian Republics is becoming a serious concern as many health trends begin to decline. Central Asia is facing a concentrated HIV/AIDS epidemic, with overall prevalence of less than 1% among the general population, but over 5% for high-risk groups. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) sero-surveillance data in Central Asia indicates that approximately 90,000 people are living with HIV/AIDS. Based on projections for 2008, this number is likely to rise to 1.65 million without concerted efforts to tackle the disease. Tuberculosis (TB) is another imminent problem. TB rates are growing at an alarming speed within the region due to the presence of a multi-drug resistant form of the disease and poor TB control rates in prisons. This resurgence of infectious disease is posing an immediate threat to the sustainability of progress for the region.

U.S. Assistance Priorities: Priorities in the health sector are two-fold: providing technical assistance in support of health care reform, and improving access to quality health care while preventing and controlling infectious diseases, particularly HIV/AIDS, TB, Malaria, and now Avian Flu. Assisting the countries of Central Asia to apply for Global Funds and assisting them to effectively manage the resources is another key goal.

Program Performance: Regional funds support primary health care reform efforts in each country to promote evidence-based medicine and development of clinical practice guidelines throughout Central Asia. During FY 2005, there has been a considerable increase in the sharing of new evidence-based clinical guidelines between countries in the region. Additionally, funding continued to support the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional TB Advisor, now based in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. The advisor provides essential technical assistance to national TB control programs, ensuring their adherence to

WHO standards. In addition to training medical opinion leaders and institution directors, USAID began to work with medical associations; together, these professionals published 43 technical documents during the reporting period, including analytical reports, curricula, and manuals, for dissemination throughout the region. Regional funds also supported medical education reform as a crucial component to achieving sustainable health systems reform in Central Asia. As a result of ongoing collaboration between the USAID-funded Council of Rectors and the World Federation for Medical Education, appropriate undergraduate qualifications have been designed for use in Central Asia.

FY 2006 Program**SO: 176-0131 Improved Environment for the Growth of Small and Medium Enterprises****Strengthen The Financial Services Sector & Increase Access to Capital**

Strengthen the Financial Services Sector and Increase Access to Capital (\$75,000 FSA, \$20,000 FSA carryover). USAID will continue to strengthen the capacity of microfinance institutions to provide financial services on a sustainable basis. Special attention will be given to expanding services to rural areas. Principal contractors/grantees: Agricultural Cooperative Development International/Volunteers for Overseas Cooperative Assistance and to be determined (TBD)(primes).

FY 2007 Program**SO: 176-0131 Improved Environment for the Growth of Small and Medium Enterprises****Strengthen The Financial Services Sector & Increase Access to Capital**

Strengthen the Financial Services Sector and Increase Access to Capital (\$200,000 FSA). USAID will support further expansion of access to finance for micro and small entrepreneurs, particularly in rural areas. Principal contractor/grantee: TBD (prime).

FY 2006 Program**SO: 176-0161 Improved Management of Critical Natural Resources, Including Energy****Improve Economic Policy and the Business Environment**

Improve Economic Policy and the Business Environment (\$310,000 FSA, \$312,000 FSA carryover). Due to a growing energy demand in the region, USAID will assist Central Asian nations to develop policies that lead to transparent and market-based energy trading agreements. Principal contractor/grantee: TBD (prime).

Increase Agricultural Sector Productivity

Increase Agricultural Sector Productivity (\$490,000 FSA, \$38,000 FSA carryover). The growth of rural economies in Central Asia depends on local control of resources and increased citizen participation in decision-making. USAID will increase the number of Water User Associations (WUA) receiving assistance, and continue to promote WUA policy and procedural reforms, drawing from regional experience. Principal contractors/grantees: Winrock International (prime), Academy for Educational Development (sub), and New Mexico State University (sub).

Agricultural Finance Plus (AgFin+) aims to stimulate economic growth throughout the farm-to-market value chain. Through training and technical assistance, AgFin+ will assist farmers to overcome constraints they face in delivering products to targeted markets and to capture a return on their investment. The AgFin+ program, complementing USAID's economic development activities such as small business development, will also stimulate agriculture-related businesses such as agri-services, agri-trade, and agri-processing which are critical to the farm-to-market chain. Principal contractors/grantees: Development Alternatives Inc. (prime) and Winrock International (sub).

FY 2007 Program**SO: 176-0161 Improved Management of Critical Natural Resources, Including Energy****Improve Economic Policy and the Business Environment**

Improve Economic Policy and the Business Environment (\$450,000 FSA). Through a program for regional cooperation in energy and water, USAID will continue to work with Central Asian authorities and specialists on bilateral and multilateral agreements to support the development of a transparent regional

energy market. Principal contractor/grantee: to be determined (TBD) (prime).

Increase Agricultural Sector Productivity

Increase Agricultural Sector Productivity (\$250,000 FSA). AgFin+ will continue to support ongoing agricultural activities and will expand access to local, regional, and/or international markets for a larger number of pilot groups and/or associations. Principal contractors/grantees: Development Alternatives Inc. (prime) and Winrock International (sub).

Regional funds will be used to expand the number of hectares under improved water management for agricultural production. The program will assist more WUAs to implement good management and democratic practices. Principal contractors/grantees: Winrock International (prime), Academy for Educational Development (sub), and New Mexico State University (sub).

FY 2006 Program

SO: 176-0320 Increased Utilization of Quality Primary Health Care for Select Populations

Address Other Health Vulnerabilities

Address Other Health Vulnerabilities (\$640,000 FSA). USAID will continue to promote evidence-based medicine (EBM) and clinical practice guideline development throughout Central Asia, and the sharing of the resulting guidelines between countries. USAID will work with leading medical and nursing professional associations to further this goal. USAID will also support medical education reform as a crucial component to sustainable health systems reforms in Central Asia. Principal contractors/grantees: Abt Associates (prime), Morehouse University School of Medicine (sub), John Snow Inc. (sub), Boston University (sub), CitiHope (sub), Socium Consult (sub), Scientific Technology and Language Institute (sub), and Institute for Sustainable Communities (sub).

Prevent & Control Infectious Diseases Of Major Importance

Prevent & Control Infectious Diseases of Major Importance (\$135,000 FSA). USAID's regional TB control program will work with multi-sectoral high level working groups focused on expansion of the World Health Organization (WHO)-recommended Directly Observed Treatment Short-course (DOTS) strategy, rational drug management, work with prison health systems, and multi-drug resistant TB. The program will provide essential technical assistance to national TB control programs and assist them in applying for support from, and implementing national programs with funds from, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria. Principal contractors/grantees: Project HOPE (prime), Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health (sub), John Snow Inc. (sub), and New Jersey Medical School National TB Center (sub).

Reduce Transmission & Impact Of HIV/AIDS

Reduce Transmission & Impact of HIV/AIDS (\$1,238,000 CSH). Regional funds will reinforce drug demand reduction activities within the Drug Demand Reduction Program (DDRP), implemented by the Alliance for Open Society International. DDRP targets vulnerable populations with information about the risks of drug use, as well as with training in prevention and treatment of drug abuse. Approximately 70% of HIV infections in the region are linked to drug injection, so information and services to reduce this risk behavior provide a crucial preventive measure to fight the HIV/AIDS epidemic. DDRP works in three countries (Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and Kyrgyzstan); regional funds will be used to supplement country budgets and to support the implementation of innovative models that respond to this urgent cross-border threat. DDRP training targets professionals with modern approaches to reduce demand and address addiction; for example, funds will support counselors, including psychologists, to utilize a team approach to respond to drug use. DDRP also seeks to institutionalize education and training on the topic. DDRP's

Youth Power Centers, will continue to offer information, education, and activities to help young people at particular risk make healthy choices about sex and drug use. Principal contractors/grantees: Alliance for Open Society International (prime), Eurasia Foundation (sub), Population Services International (sub), and Internews (sub).

FY 2007 Program

SO: 176-0320 Increased Utilization of Quality Primary Health Care for Select Populations

Address Other Health Vulnerabilities

Address Other Health Vulnerabilities (\$393,000). USAID will work to institutionalize progress on medical education reforms and clinical practice guideline development. Principal contractors/grantees: Abt Associates (prime), Morehouse University School of Medicine (sub), John Snow Inc. (sub), Boston University (sub), CitiHope (sub), Socium Consult (sub), Scientific Technology and Language Institute (sub), and Institute for Sustainable Communities (sub).

Prevent & Control Infectious Diseases Of Major Importance

Prevent and Control Infectious Diseases of Major Importance (\$207,000). USAID will continue to provide technical assistance on DOTS expansion to national TB control programs and multi-sectoral high-level working groups. Principal contractors/grantees: Project HOPE (prime), Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health (sub), John Snow Inc. (sub), and New Jersey Medical School National TB Center (sub).

Reduce Transmission & Impact Of HIV/AIDS

Reduce Transmission and Impact of HIV/AIDS (\$988,000 CSH). The Central Asian Program on AIDS Control and Intervention Targeting Youth and High-Risk Groups will continue to strengthen implementation of the national strategies to prevent and control HIV/AIDS. USAID's inter-agency agreement with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will be extended to intensify and broaden efforts on HIV sentinel surveillance training. Principal contractors/grantees: same implementers as above; additional contractors/grantees to be determined (TBD).

FY 2006 Program

SO: 176-0420 Cross-cutting Programs

Program Support

Program Support: Program Development and Support (\$53,000 FSA, \$22,670 FSA carryover, \$162,344 FSA prior year recoveries). In FY 2006, programmatic, administrative, and management support will include technical assistance, staff salaries, performance monitoring and evaluations, public outreach, and development of a Mission Geographic Information System (GIS). It will also include religious outreach efforts through tours of our programs for and representational events with Islamic leaders to better inform them about our assistance and to incorporate community views into Mission programming. Additionally, FY 2006 regional funds will support preparation of the Mission's new strategy. Principal contractors/grantees: To be determined (TBD).

FY 2007 Program

SO: 176-0420 Cross-cutting Programs

Program Support

Program Support: Program Development and Support (\$70,000 FSA). In FY 2007, regional funding will continue to support programmatic, administrative, and management needs such as technical assistance,

staff salaries, performance monitoring and evaluations, public outreach, and GIS. Resources also will continue to support religious outreach efforts. Additionally, FY 2007 regional funds will be used to prepare a Performance Monitoring Plan, consistent with the Mission's new strategy. Principal contractors/grantees: TBD.

Results Framework

176-0131 Improved Environment for the Growth of Small and Medium Enterprises

Program Title: Small and Medium Sized Enterprises

IR 1.3.1: Increased Opportunities to Acquire Business Information, Knowledge, and Skills

IR 1.3.2: More Responsive Financial Institutions, Instruments, and Markets

IR 1.3.3: Increased Implementation of Laws and Regulations

176-0161 Improved Management of Critical Natural Resources, Including Energy

Program Title: Energy and Water

IR 1.6.1: Increased Management Capacity in the Natural Resources Sector

IR 1.6.2: Improved Policy and Regulatory Framework

IR 1.6.3: Sustainable Models Developed for Integrated Natural Resources Management

IR 1.6.4: Public Commitment Established for Natural Resources Management Policies

176-0211 Strengthened Democratic Culture among Citizens and Target Institutions

Program Title: Democratic Culture and Institutions

IR 2.1.1: Stronger and More Sustainable Civic Organizations

IR 2.1.2: Increased Availability of Information on Civic Rights and Domestic Public Issues

IR 2.1.3: Enhanced Opportunities for Citizen Participation in Governance

IR 2.1.4: More Effective, Responsive, and Accountable Local Governance

176-0240 Conflict Mitigation

Program Title: Conflict Prevention

IR 2.4.1: Strengthened Community Participation

IR 2.4.2: Improved Local Services Through Community Decisions

176-0320 Increased Utilization of Quality Primary Health Care for Select Populations

Program Title: Health and Population

IR 3.2.1: Select Populations are Better Informed about Personal Health Care Rights and Responsibilities

IR 3.2.2: Improved Quality of Health Care Including Infectious Diseases and Maternal and Child Health

IR 3.2.3: Improved Use of Health Care Resources for Primary Health Care

IR 3.2.4: Improved Legislative, Regulatory, and Policy Framework

176-0420 Cross-cutting Programs

Program Title: Cross-Cutting Programs